



# DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

## INFORMATION SERVICE

### FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

For Immediate Release

### 1942 DUCK SEASONS 70 DAYS; GEESE GET EXTRA SAFEGUARDS

Revising Federal migratory bird hunting regulations in accordance with the year's game supplies, Secretary of the Interior Harold L. Ickes today announced new 1942 rules that allow 10 added days of duck hunting and liberalize in other ways the restrictions on duck hunters but tighten the protection of geese and other birds that have not increased with the ducks.

Adopted by Secretary Ickes in accordance with a law of Congress making effective migratory bird treaties with Canada and Mexico, the amended regulations were approved by President Roosevelt on July 14. They were recommended by the Fish and Wildlife Service following biological investigations and consultations with State game administrators.

### Duck Hunting Rules Liberalized

New 70-day duck hunting seasons, instead of 60 days in 1941, begin on September 26, October 15, and November 2 in the northern, intermediate, and southern zones, respectively. Duck-hunting hours will run from sunrise to sunset, instead of from sunrise to 4 p. m. as formerly, and legally killed birds may be possessed for 30 days after the close of the season, instead of 20 days.

Duck-hunting privileges will be greater this year, Secretary Ickes explained, because of the continuing increases in the supply of these birds. Based on the game-management principle that the annual take should be governed by the available game, the new rules were phrased after a Fish and Wildlife Service inventory indicated a North American waterfowl population of about 100,000,000 last January. This was 30,000,000 more than the 1941 estimate and more than three times the estimated population seven years ago. Later favorable reports from investigators on the birds' breeding grounds corroborate the expectation that next fall's duck flights will be the best in more than a decade.

"We do not intend," said Secretary Ickes, "that all hunters will have 70 days of sport. We do hope that the longer seasons will give every section of the country some opportunities for shooting, in spite of unpredictable weather conditions. It is our aim not only to regulate the annual take in accordance with game supplies but also to assure the most equitable possible distribution of such hunting privileges as are available."

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States in the northern zone, where duck hunting will run from September 26 to December 4, are: Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Ohio, Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota, Wyoming, and Montana. Vermont was in the intermediate zone last year.

The intermediate zone, with an October 15 to December 23 duck season, includes Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Kentucky, Indiana, Illinois, Iowa, Missouri, Nebraska, Kansas, Oklahoma, Colorado, Utah, Idaho, Nevada, Washington, Oregon, and California.

The November 2 to January 10 southern-zone duck season will prevail in Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, Tennessee, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, Arkansas, Louisiana, Texas, New Mexico, and Arizona. Delaware was in the intermediate zone last year.

New provisions governing water areas between States make the northern-zone season apply to the entire Lake Champlain area in both Vermont and New York, the intermediate season govern the Pymatuning Reservoir in Pennsylvania and Ohio, and the southern-zone dates include the Colorado River area in California though the rest of this State is in the intermediate zone.

In Puerto Rico the duck season runs from December 15 to February 12 and in two zones of Alaska from September 1 to November 9 and September 21 to November 29. No open seasons on migratory birds are provided in Hawaii.

Scoters, known locally as sea coots, may be taken in open coastal waters only, beyond outer harbor lines, in Maine and New Hampshire from September 15 to 30, and in Connecticut, Massachusetts, New York, and Rhode Island from September 15 to October 15. Thereafter they are governed by the same rules applying to other ducks.

For the first time since adoption of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act the open seasons apply to all ducks, including the wood duck, which last year was legally hunted in 15 States. Investigators reported "no evidence that the authorization of 1941 resulted in an excessive take" but said that "on the contrary there is evidence that much waste was eliminated" by permitting the possession and use of one wood duck taken by mistake for other species.

Regulations governing bag and possession limits of ducks remain unchanged except that a new provision makes the possession limit on the first day of hunting conform to the daily bag limit.

Daily bag limits on ducks are "10 in the aggregate of all kinds including in such limit not more than 1 wood duck, or more than 3 singly or in the aggregate of redheads and buffleheads." Any person at any one time may possess "not more than 20 ducks in the aggregate of all kinds but not more than 1 wood duck, nor more than 6 of either or both of redheads or buffleheads."

Rules governing the means by which ducks may be taken remain unchanged.

### Goose Hunting Rules More Stringent

Investigations "having disclosed a decline in goose populations other than blue geese," the new regulations reduce bag limits on these birds and include other special safeguards.

Ross' geese are completely protected as formerly, and snow geese may not be taken in States bordering on the Atlantic, in Idaho, or in Beaverhead, Gallatin, or Madison Counties of Montana. The snow-geese closures in Montana and Idaho were explained as protective measures for the trumpeter swan, rare white bird that is sometimes mistaken for the snow geese.

Special protection of brant in Atlantic Coast States has been discontinued, these birds having increased in this region to the point where it is possible to apply only the general goose-protection measures.

The daily bag limit on geese and brant is 2, but in addition <sup>4</sup> of the more abundant blue geese may be taken in a day. If blue geese only are taken the daily bag limit is 6.

The possession limit on geese other than blue geese is <sup>4</sup> a day, but in addition 2 blue geese are allowed and if only blue geese are taken the possession limit is 6. On the season's opening day the possession limit is the same as the daily bag limit.

Canada geese, it was explained, are thus protected with a 2-a-day bag limit and a possession limit of <sup>4</sup>.

Open seasons, hunting zones, shooting hours, and methods of hunting are the same for geese as for ducks except that in Alexander County, Ill., only a 60-day season on geese is provided, October 15 to December 13, and geese there may be taken only from sunrise to 12 o'clock noon.

"Notwithstanding a reduction in the take last year," said Secretary Ickes, "investigations indicate that the kill of geese at Horseshoe Lake in Alexander County was still too high to be consistent with good management."

### Doves Get Added Protection

Mourning-dove bag and possession limits have also been reduced, from 12 to 10. This limit applies also to the white-winged dove, and if both kinds of doves are taken the total number of doves taken in a day or possessed may not be more than 10.

Mourning dove seasons have been reduced from 42 days to 30 days in 14 States.

These States are Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, Arkansas, Missouri, Kentucky, and Tennessee.

Investigation, Dr. Ira N. Gabrielson, Director of the Fish and Wildlife Service reported to Secretary Ickes, showed a "very material shortage of the eastern form of the mourning dove as compared with the population of a few years ago."

Mourning doves may be taken from sunrise to sunset during the following open seasons:

Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, and South Carolina, December 1 to 30.

Arizona, California, Kansas, Nevada, New Mexico, and Oklahoma, September 1 to October 12.

Delaware, Kentucky, Maryland, and Virginia, September 16 to October 15.

Idaho, September 1 to 10.

Illinois and Missouri, September 1 to 30.

Minnesota, September 16 to 30.

Oregon, September 1 to 15.

Tennessee, October 1 to 30.

Texas, in Yoakum, Terry, Lynn, Garza, Kent, Stonewall, Haskell, Throckmorton, Young, Palo Pinto, Parker, Johnson, Ellis Kaufman, Van Zandt, Rains, Hopkins, Franklin, and Red River Counties, and all counties north thereof, September 1 to October 12; in remainder of State, September 16 to October 27.

Open seasons on white-winged doves are: Arizona, September 1 to 15, and Texas, September 16 to 25.

#### Pigeon Seasons Doubled

Seasons on band-tailed pigeons, increased from 15 to 30 days, are as follows, with shooting allowed between sunrise and sunset:

Arizona, New Mexico, and Washington, September 16 to October 15.

California, December 1 to 30.

Oregon, September 1 to 30.

The daily bag limit on band-tailed pigeons is 10, and any person at any one time may possess not more than 10.

#### Set Seasons on Rails and Gallinules

Reporting some adjustments in seasons regarding rails and gallinules Director Gabrielson pointed out that as in previous years coots are grouped with

the waterfowl in setting the seasons. Open seasons on rails and gallinules (except coots) will be from September 1 to November 30, with the following exceptions:

Alabama, November 20 to January 31.

Louisiana, September 15 to December 15.

Maine and Wisconsin, September 26 to December 14.

Massachusetts and New York, including Long Island, October 15 to December 23.

Minnesota, September 16 to November 30.

Puerto Rico, December 15 to February 12.

California, District of Columbia, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, Tennessee, and Washington, no open season.

The changes this year, the Secretary explained, advance the season in Louisiana on rails and gallinules and close the season on these birds in Tennessee on request of the State game departments. The seasons in Maine, Massachusetts, New York, and Wisconsin have been adjusted so as to coincide with the seasons for waterfowl hunting in those States.

As in the past the daily bag limits on coots and sora are 25 and 15, respectively, and not more than 15 in the aggregate of other species of rails and gallinules may be taken in any day. Possession limits on these birds are the same as the daily bag limits.

Shooting hours are from sunrise to sunset.

#### Few Changes in Woodcock Rules

Fifteen-day woodcock seasons with 4-a-day bag and 8-bird possession limits remain as last year, the only changes being in season dates in Minnesota and Pennsylvania at the request of State game officials.

Director Gabrielson informed Secretary Ickes that the status of woodcocks, which suffered disasters from storms in 1940, is "somewhat improved in general but spotty."

The woodcock seasons, with shooting from sunrise to sunset, are as follows:

That part of New York lying north of the tracks of the main line of the New York Central Railroad extending from Buffalo to Albany and north of the tracks of the main line of the Boston & Albany Railroad extending from Albany to the Massachusetts State line, and in Vermont and Wisconsin, October 1 to 15.

That part of New York lying south of the line above described and in Connecticut and Indiana, October 15 to 29.

That part of New York known as Long Island, and in New Jersey and Rhode Island, November 1 to 15.

Arkansas and Oklahoma, December 1 to 15.

Delaware and Maryland, November 15 to 29.

Louisiana and Mississippi, December 15 to 29.

Maine, New Hampshire, and Ohio, October 10 to 24.

Massachusetts, October 20 to November 3.

Michigan, in Upper Peninsula, October 1 to 15; in remainder of State, October 15 to 29.

Minnesota, October 3 to 18.

Missouri, November 10 to 24.

Pennsylvania, October 24 to November 7.

Virginia, November 20 to December 4.

West Virginia, October 17 to 31.

#### Specify Means for Taking Birds

Outlining the means by which migratory game birds may be taken legally, the new regulations continue the prohibition of the use of bait or live decoys and prohibit "the taking of waterfowl by means, aid, or use of cattle, horses, or mules."

Hunters, it is provided, may use shotguns not larger than 10 gauge or bows and arrows, as formerly, and the 3-shell limit on repeating shotguns, either hand operated or auto-loading, is continued.

All persons over 16 years of age hunting migratory waterfowl are required to have with them an unexpired Federal Migratory Bird Hunting Stamp validated by their signatures on the stamp. These stamps, commonly called duck stamps, may be purchased at post offices for one dollar.

Copies of the complete regulations may be obtained as soon as available from the Fish and Wildlife Service, United States Department of the Interior, Washington, D. C.